THE HUMAN FLY™
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THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!
THE HUMAN FLY™
THIS ISSUE: A TRUE-TO-LIFE ACCOUNT OF THE NEAR-TRAGEDY AT MONTREAL!
LEGENDS DIE HARD!
SCHOOLBUS
SCHOOLBUS
A MrBC SCAN

One night in 1971, on a lonely North Carolina highway, a head-on *car crash* cost a young driver his family—and, very nearly *his life!* Hardly a bone in his body remained *unbroken*. His doctors were *sure* that he would never *move* again. . . But he *triumphed* over his disability and went on to become the *wildest hero* of all—because he's *REAL!*

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!

SILVER CHARITY, SUDDEN DEATH!
YOU ARE LOOKING AT A MAN WHOSE SOUL IS IN TORMENT--A MAN WHOSE REACH EXCEEDED HIS GRASP--A MAN WHO...FAILED!
THE WILD WEST JAKE-EVIL!
THE HUMAN FLY
THE HUMAN FLY
BUT A MAN WHO IS, AFTER ALL, JUST A MAN LIKE ANY OTHER!
HIS NAME? WELL... CALL HIM--THE HUMAN FLY!

A STARTLING NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE HUMAN FLY!

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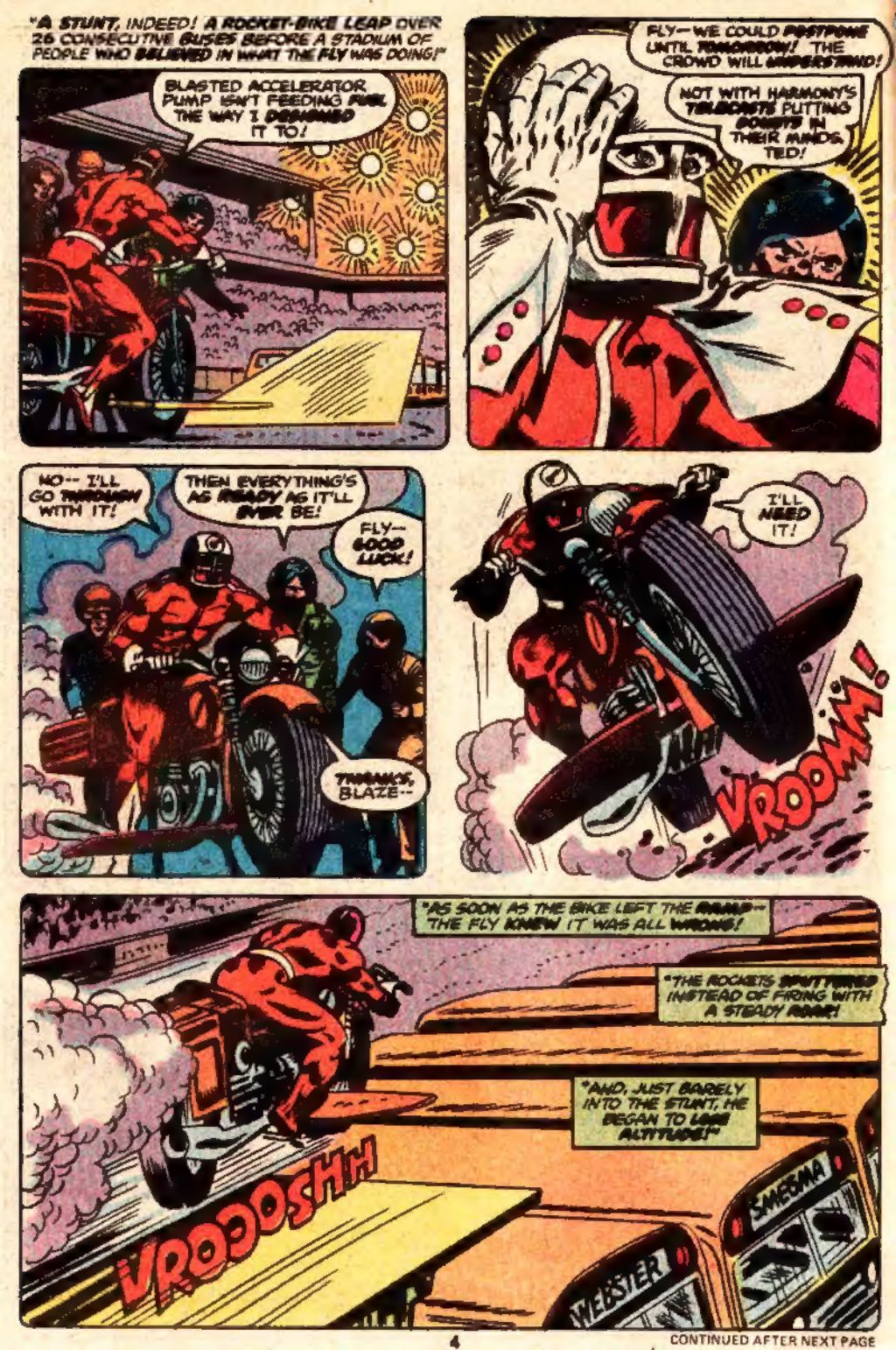
UH, FLY-- WE'LL BE IN ST. LOUIS WITHIN THE HOUR! CAN I--
--CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING?
NO, ARNIE, THANK YOU.
I'D JUST LIKE TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE!
ARNIE BERMAN SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM--
--AND REJOINS TED LOCKE, THE FLY'S STUNT-ENGINEER, AND BLAZE KENDAL, DRIVER AND PILOT, IN THE CAB OF THEIR TRAVELING STUNT-VAN!
HOW IS HE, MR. PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN?
STILL BROODING, TED! SINGING TO HIMSELF AND PLAYING HIS GUITAR!
HE'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE... MONTREAL!
I KNOW--AND JUST WHEN HE WAS HAPPIEST, AFTER HELPING DAREDEVIL AND THE WHITE TIGER TO STOP A DEADLY CRIMINAL IN NEW YORK--*
--AND SAVING THOSE COAL MINERS IN KENTUCKY!**
*HUMAN FLY #8 & 9-- **AND HF #10--ARCHIE.

"BUT THEN WE ROLLED INTO MONTREAL, CANADA...!
OLYMPIC STADIUM IS JUST AHEAD, FLY!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL WELCOMING COMMITTEE WAS ALERTED TO YOUR ARRIVAL!
WELCOME HUMAN FLY
ARNIE--WAS THAT BANNER YOUR IDEA?
WHO--ME?! YOU KNOW I ALWAYS RESPECT OUR FEARLESS LEADER'S HUMILITY!
EXCEPT WHEN YOU GET CARRIED AWAY!
HEY--IT'S THE HUMAN FLY! HE'S HERE!
AND SO IS THE PRESS!
INCLUDING, IT SEEMS, OUR SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT MS. HARMONY WHYTE!
YOU--YOU'VE GOT TO ANSWER TO YOUR PUBLIC, FLY!
PEOPLE ARE MY PUBLIC, MS. WHYTE--NOT WESTV!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT!
I'LL BE REPORTING YOUR SUICIDE-SPECTACLE, FLY--
--BECAUSE MY BOSS, CARL BRADEN, WILL FIRE ME IF I DON'T! LORD HELP ME--FLY, I--I'M SORRY!
FORGET HER, PEOPLE! WE'VE GOT A STUNT TO WORK ON!


"A STUNT, INDEED! A ROCKET-BIKE LEAP OVER 26 CONSECUTIVE BUSES BEFORE A STADIUM OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN WHAT THE FLY WAS DOING!"
BLASTED ACCELERATOR PUMP ISN'T FEEDING FUEL THE WAY I DESIGNED IT TO!
FLY—WE COULD POSTPONE UNTIL TOMORROW! THE CROWD WILL UNDERSTAND!
NOT WITH HARMONY'S TRIACRATS PUTTING DOUBTS IN THEIR MINDS, TED!
NO— I'LL GO THROUGH WITH IT!
THEN EVERYTHING'S AS READY AS IT'LL EVER BE!
FLY— GOOD LUCK!
THANKS, BLAZE—
I'LL NEED IT!
VROOMM!
"AS SOON AS THE BIKE LEFT THE RAMP— THE FLY KNEW IT WAS ALL WRONG!
"THE ROCKETS SPUTTERED INSTEAD OF FIRING WITH A STEADY ROAR!
"AND, JUST BARELY INTO THE STUNT, HE BEGAN TO LOSE ALTITUDE!"
VROOSHH
SMEGMA
WEBSTER

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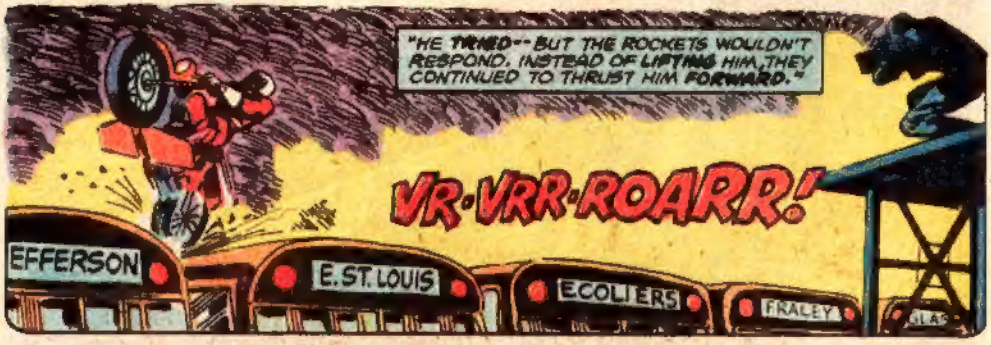
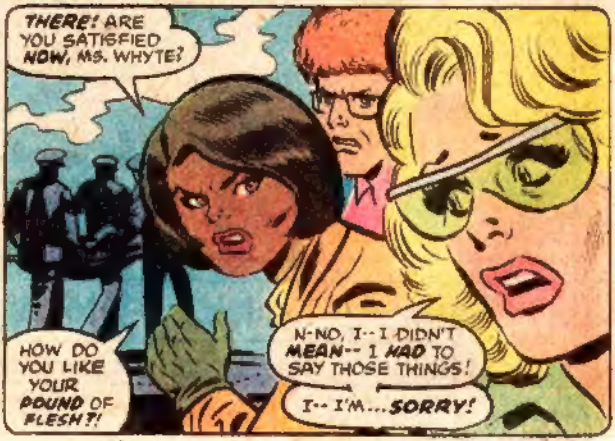
TED! OH, MY GOD! THE--THE ROCKETS HAVE CUT OUT!
HE--HE'S BARELY HALFWAY OVER!
N-NO!
GET ITS NOSE UP, FLY--LAND ON THE BACK WHEEL!


"HE TRIED--BUT THE ROCKETS WOULDN'T RESPOND. INSTEAD OF LIFTING HIM, THEY CONTINUED TO THRUST HIM FORWARD."
VR-VRR-ROARR!
EFFERSON
E. ST. LOUIS
ECOLIERS
FRALEY

BUHTOOM
GET THAT STRETCHER UP HERE--FAST!!

HE'S ALIVE!
CAREFUL WITH HIM! HE'S ALL TANGLED UP IN THE WRECKED BIKE!
ALERT THE HOSPITAL THAT WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY!


THERE! ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW, MS. WHYTE?
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR POUND OF FLESH?!
N-NO, I--I DIDN'T MEAN--I HAD TO SAY THOSE THINGS!
I--I'M...SORRY!

THAT WAS MONTREAL!
PHYSICALLY, HE'S HEALED ...AS HE HAD THE FIRST TIME!
BUT HE'D EMBODIED THE HOPES OF SO MANY! TO MILLIONS, HANDICAPPED, HURT, AND HELPLESS, HE'D OFFERED HOPE... A SECOND CHANCE--
--AND NOW HE HIMSELF HAD FAILED!
ST. LOUIS, TED! THERE'S GATEWAY ARCH!
YEH! WHAT A PRETTY PLACE TO DIE!
THE FLY SINGS SOFTLY TO HIMSELF--
--WHILE, BENEATH THE FAMOUS ARCH IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS...
YOU LISTEN TO ME GOOD, WILLIE! I'M SICK OF YOUR EXCUSES!
YOU'RE GOIN' ON STAGE TONIGHT!
MIKE, I--I CAN'T!
AW!! BETWEEN WILLIE SILVER'S SILVER CHARITY-- AN' THAT SUICIDE STUNTMAN-- THE HUMAN FLY-- WE GOT US A FULL HOUSE... AN' WE AIN'T BLOWIN' IT!
B-BUT, I-- I'M AFRAID, MIKE!
OF WHAT? FAME! YOU GOT YOURSELF A HIT SONG, KID!
I--I KNOW... BUT EVERY TIME I PERFORM "DEATH OF A SUPERSTAR" SOMETHING HAPPENS! LAST TIME I ALMOST DIED, MIKE--WHEN THAT SCAFFOLDING ABOVE THE STAGE FELL TOWARDS ME!
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A CURSE ON--LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE JUST LIKE THE ROCK STAR IN MY SONG!
SIL CHARITY
HUM

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I KNOW YOU'VE DONE A LOT FOR ME, MIKE. YOU'RE MY ROAD MANAGER—YOU GOT ME AND THE BAND OUR START! AND I—I WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY, BUT...
THEN MAKE ME HAPPY, WILLIE! BE OUT THERE ON THAT STAGE TONIGHT!
O-OKAY, MIKE!
AND, AS "CANDY" MIKE FLYNN LEAVES THE RAINBOW-HUED VAN...
WHAT'S WITH WILLIE, CANDY MIKE? HE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH! HE'S JUST NERVOUS! SEE YOU BOYS LATER!
SILVER CHARITY
SURE, MAN!
BUT ONCE INSIDE THE VAN...
HE BEEN RIDIN' YOU AGAIN, WILLIE?
HEY! WE CAN CANCEL THIS GIG IF YOU SAY SO!
N-NO, WE--WE GOT A DUTY TO OUR FANS--ALL THOSE KIDS WHO LOVE US!
B-BUT LORD! WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M GOIN' TO DIE TONIGHT?!
THE NIGHT FALLS, TO BE PIERCED BY STABBING SEARCH-LIGHT BEAMS!
AND, BENEATH GATEWAY ARCH...
HUMAN FLY
SILVER CHA
BENEFIT PERF
YOUR CREW HAS EXAMINED THE STUNT BIKE AND RAMPS, FLY!
AND YOU WISH ME TO KNOW THAT THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME?
I ACCEPT THOSE CONDITIONS, SIR!

THE LEGALITIES UNDERSTOOD, THE EVENT MANAGER CONTINUES...
THE RAMPS ANGLE UP TO THE SLOPE OF THE GATEWAY ARCH! THE BAND--SILVER CHARITY--
--WILL ANNOUNCE YOUR STUNT AND GIVE YOU YOUR CUE!
ACME VAN
I KNOW! I'VE ASKED THEM TO PLAY THEIR THEME SONG!
WHA-A-A-T?! "DEATH OF A SUPERSTAR"?! FLY, THAT'S-- THAT'S MORBID!!
I DON'T THINK SO, ARNIE! I HEAR IT AS A SONG OF HOPE-- OF REBIRTH!
TED... BLAZE... THAT SONG--
S ABOUT A DOOMED SUPERSTAR!
YOU-- YOU DON'T THINK...?
THE FLY FEELS AS IF HE DIED IN MONTREAL, ARNIE! HE'S TRYING TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH HIMSELF AGAIN!
AND, ELSEWHERE ON THE EVENT GROUNDS...
THE SET'LL BE STARTING SOON, WILLIE! YOU OKAY?
SURE--ON WITH THE SHOW, RIGHT? LET'S GET SOME EATS!
AND, IN THE SHADOWS...
THEY'RE GONE! I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST! WILLIE WAS GETTING CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN HE KNEW!
SILVER CHARITY SING
DEATH OF A SUPER
DESPITE THEIR HITS, SILVER CHARITY'S BROKE ...'CAUSE I'VE BEEN EMBEZZLING THE PROFITS!

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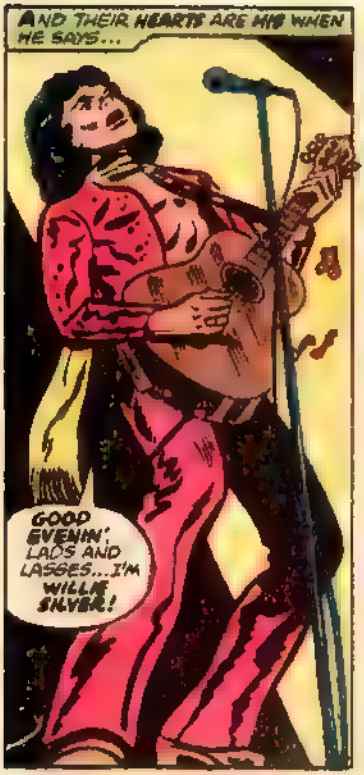
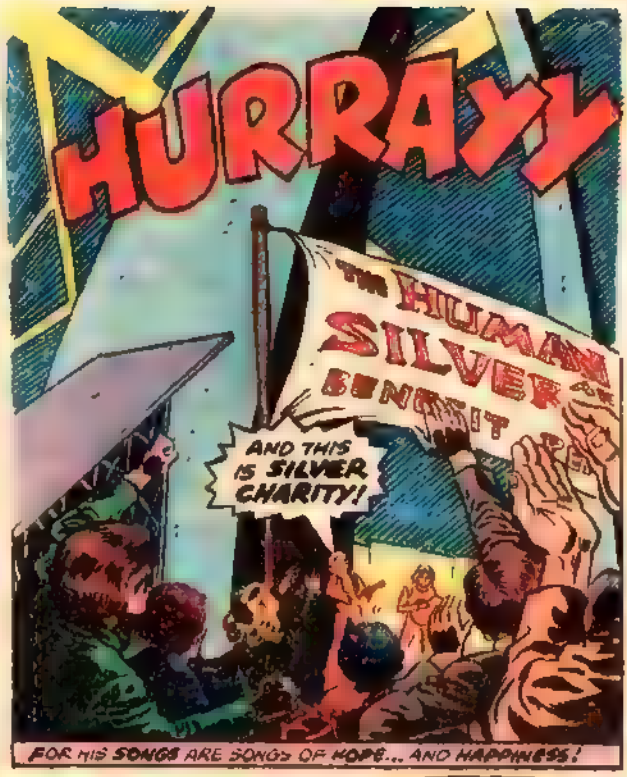
I DID IT BY DOCTORING THE BOOKS! THEIR MONEY'S ALL MINE NOW! BUT THERE'S ONE MORE BUNDLE TO BE MADE OFF OF THESE TURKEYS-- THE INSURANCE ON THE BAND! INSURANCE I COLLECT--
--IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO WILLIE SILVER!
AND TONIGHT SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN!
ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE ACCIDENTS!
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF "DEATH OF A SUPERSTAR!"
AND STILL THE SEARCHLIGHTS SPEAR THE DARKNESS, ETCHING THEIR WORDLESS MESSAGE IN THE NIGHT SKY!
THE CROWD APPLAUDS! THEY, TOO, ARE UNAWARE--
THE HUMAN FLY
SILVER CHARITY
BENEFIT PERFORMANCE
--THAT, THIS NIGHT, BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES, ONE MAN WILL SURVIVE ...AND ANOTHER WILL DIE!

WHILE, AMONG THE ASSEMBLED MULTITUDE...
MR. DRAGON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WATCHING YOU, MS. WHYTE!
I TOLD YOU I WANTED RESULTS FROM YOU ON YOUR EXPOSÉ OF THE HUMAN FLY! SO FAR, I'VE GOTTEN NOTHING!
BUT THE FLY ISN'T THE FRAUD I THOUGHT HE WAS!
THAT'S TOO BAD, HARMONY, BECAUSE EITHER YOU GET THE STORY I WANT --OR YOU'RE THROUGH!
THEN, AT LAST, ALL IS IN READINESS...
MORE THAN A FULL HOUSE TONIGHT, WILLIE!
ALL RIGHT, LADS-- THIS SHOW'S NOT FOR MONEY OR FOR FAME... IT'S FOR CHARITY!
SO LET'S PLAY OUR HEARTS OUT!
THE CROWD HOLDS ITS BREATH AS WILLIE ADVANCES TO THE MICROPHONE--
--AND A COLLECTIVE SIGH GOES UP AS THE FIRST CHORD IS CARRIED UP OVER THEIR HEADS INTO THE NIGHT!
THEY KNOW THIS YOUTH. THEY LOVE HIM, HIS MUSIC, THE WAY HE MAKES THEM FEEL!





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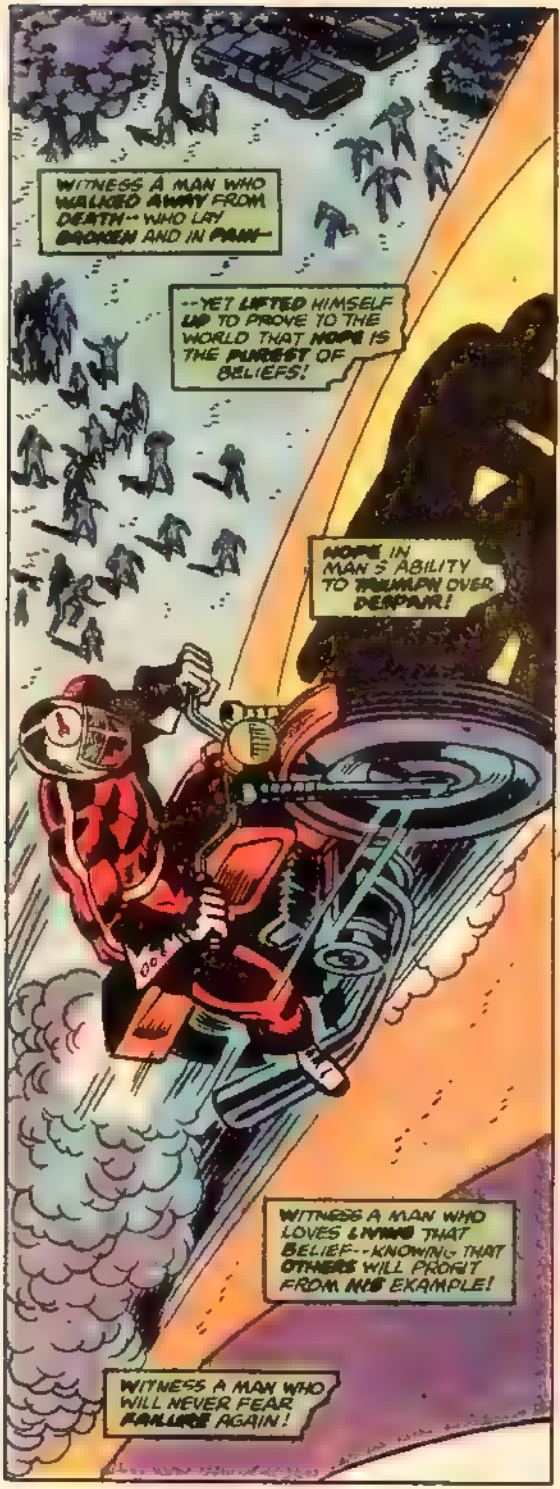
--THE ONE AND ONLY HUMAN FLY!!
THIS IS IT! A SECOND CHANCE!
VROARR
TO MAKE UP FOR MONTREAL--
VRRRRRR--
--AND TO RENEW MY FAITH IN MYRTLE!
RUSSHH!
HE--HE'S DOING IT-- AND THE CROWD LOVES HIM!
BLOOD AND CIRCUSES, MS. WHYTE!
THE CROWD IS HERE TO SEE HIM FALL!
NBZ
ATTABOY, WILLIE! PLAY YOURSELF TO DEATH!
GET TO WORK, MS. WHYTE! DENOUNCE THAT SUICIDAL GLORY-SEEKER! THAT'S WHAT I PAY YOU FOR!
NOT ANYMORE YOU DON'T, MR. BRADEN! I--I BELIEVE IN THE FLY--
--AND I QUIT!


WITNESS A MAN WHO WALKED AWAY FROM DEATH--WHO LAY BROKEN AND IN PAIN--
--YET LIFTED HIMSELF UP TO PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT HOPE IS THE PUREST OF BELIEFS!
HOPE IN MAN'S ABILITY TO TRIUMPH OVER DESPAIR!
WITNESS A MAN WHO LOVES LIVING THAT BELIEF--KNOWING THAT OTHERS WILL PROFIT FROM HIS EXAMPLE!
WITNESS A MAN WHO WILL NEVER FEAR FAILURE AGAIN!

HE'S RIDING THE ARCH--LAUGHING AT DEATH--
--AND, SUDDENLY, I DON'T FEEL AFRAID ANYMORE!

HE IS... THE HUMAN FLY!

MANY LOVE WILLIE FOR THE MESSAGE IN HIS WORDS--
--AND MANY LOVE THE FLY AS WELL, FOR THE MESSAGE IN HIS ACTIONS.

I DID IT!
DO YOU HEAR ME, WORLD?!
I LIVE AGAIN! I'VE PROVEN MY MESSAGE IS REAL!
YOUR FAITH IN ME HAS HEALED ME!
I BELIEVE IN MYSELF ONCE MORE!
THANK YOU...!
THERE ARE TEARS BENEATH THE CRIMSON MASK...TEARS OF JOY!

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HE DID IT, LADS--FOR ALL OF US! LET'S GIVE HIM A SONG... TO THANK HIM--
--FOR GIVING US SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN!
HEY, LISTEN! WILLIE'S CHANGED THE WORDS--
--TO "DEATH OF A SUPER-STAR!"
YEAH, GOODBYE, WILLIE!
ZAAA
YEEAACH!
OWW! BLASTED FEED-BACK--!
ZIIT

WILLIE! HIS GUITAR SHORTED OUT JUST AS HE STARTED TO PLAY! HE'S BEING ELECTRO-CUTED, AND EVERYONE'S TOO STUNNED TO ACT!
EVERYONE BUT ME!
YAAGHH!
VROARRR!
WH-WHAT'S WRONG? LIGHT-NING?!
NO--NOT LIGHTNING... MURDER!
SOMEONE SABOTAGED WILLIE'S GUITAR--
VROOOMM
--AND I'VE GOT TO CUT THE CURRENT BEFORE HE'S BURNED ALIVE!!
U-UNHH!
SKREE!
SNIK

YOU! I SAW SOMETHING FLASH IN YOUR HAND AS WILLIE SCREAMED IN PAIN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING--!
NO? THEN WHAT'S THAT--
URRKK!
--IN YOUR INSIDE POCKET?!
A TRANSMUTTER! GET THAT GUY!
WITH PLEASURE!
LADY-- YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO REPORT THE NEWS... NOT MAKE IT!
MR. BRADEN, YOU OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME BEFORE! I DON'T WORK FOR YOU ANYMORE! YOU CAN TAKE YOUR JOB--
--AND STUFF IT!
WHILE, ON THE STAGE...
TAKE IT EASY, WILLIE!
L-LORD, HE-- HE'S BURNED SO BAD!
N-NO GOOD, FLY... I KNOW I'M... DONE FOR...

...BUT MY--MY MUSIC...MEANS SO MUCH... TO PEOPLE.
D-DON'T...LET MY MUSIC... DIE...OKAY?
OKAY, WILLIE! I PROMISE--
--THAT YOUR SONG WILL CARRY ON!
--AND THE FUTURE IS A BRIGHT, STRAIGHT PATH BEFORE US ALL.
THE HUMAN FLY AND SILVER CHARITY BENEFIT PERFORMANCE
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...FOR WILLIE SILVER-- FOR ALL OF US-- I'D LIKE TO SING--
"--BIRTH OF A SUPERSTAR!"

THE MONTREAL STUNT TOOK PLACE ON OCTOBER 7, 1977 AS DEPICTED!

THE HUMAN FLY— STUNTMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE— WILL SOON BECOME A RECORDING ARTIST AS WELL.

NEXT ISSUE: **ARNIE'S STORY!**